

with this plan as our only option. It is a Hobson's choice, which is no choice at all.

Rather than do what our constituents expect us to do, which is discuss, debate, and have meaningful oversight and make tough policy choices, we are left with a budget reconciliation package that is nothing more than a fig leaf to cover up a host of fiscal shortcomings.

I may be new to Congress and the process, but I know this budget reconciliation package is wrongheaded and sadly lacking in transparency. I urge a "no" vote.

#### TIME TO REDUCE FEDERAL SPENDING

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today, this body is going to address and pass the Deficit Reduction Act. While we are doing this, the left is out in full force telling Americans that we are about to cut Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, shame on them.

Next year, under this bill, Medicaid will grow 7 percent. That is not a cut. We are taking the rate of growth from 7.3 to 7 percent.

If the left wants to lie about it, there is not a lot that we are going to be able to do to stop them, but the American people should know that they are not being told the truth.

So when the Democrats come down here today talking about how we are hurting the poor and hurting seniors and hurting children, they are being dishonest, because they know they cannot win this argument. The American people are ready to see Federal Government spending reduced.

#### STANDING UP FOR AMERICA

(Mr. SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, who is telling the truth? The Democrats are telling the truth on this. This is smoke and mirrors, and the Republicans are offering a budget reconciliation package that is definitely harmful to the American people.

We can do better, this Congress deserves to do better, and the American people are expecting us to do better.

Here is the truth: the truth is that this is not deficit reduction. It will add a total of \$16 billion to our deficit. Here are the facts: The cuts are \$54 billion. Yet there is a tax cut in here for \$70 billion. Separate it, the math is there: 54 from 70 is 16. It adds \$16 billion just in adding the tax cuts to it.

I tell my colleagues, there was a young fellow named David who came from the sheep and they told him to go back and mind his sheep, and he was to go get Goliath. David looked at him and said, Is there not a cause?

Well, I am here to tell my colleagues there is a cause for you and a cause for me, and that cause is to stand up for Americans, stand up for the American people. We can do better. Let us vote down this awful budget reconciliation.

#### SUPPORT THE DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today Congress will debate the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which includes over \$50 billion in mandatory savings. Thanks to the Republican majority in Congress, Mr. Speaker, we have today the opportunity to reduce the size of the deficit, protect the American taxpayer, lessen the burden on future generations, and also fund the priorities of the American people.

Now, there are two reasons why the extreme left will not support this historic legislation. As a matter of fact, they will and they already have, like Chicken Little, claim that the sky is falling, the sky is falling. The reason that they will not support it is because tax increases and irresponsible spending are nowhere to be found in this bill. In fact, this legislation reduces spending and has no tax increases whatsoever, something that the left cannot deal with.

A vote, Mr. Speaker, in favor of this legislation is a vote against the left-wing economic agenda of tax increases and reckless spending, and for the American people.

#### BLUE DOGS OFFER ALTERNATIVE 12-POINT DEFICIT REDUCTION PACKAGE THAT IS BETTER FOR AMERICA

(Mr. MATHESON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, later on today, the House is going to vote on a budget reconciliation package and, from what we are hearing, up is down and down is up.

We are supposed to be here to be lowering the deficit. I am concerned about the deficit. We should not be burdening future generations with our consumption today. Yet the package being put forth today by the majority, the package of spending cuts, but also tax cuts, is going to end up with an increase in our deficit of \$16 billion. That is not right.

Look, deficit reduction is hard to do. It requires some tough choices. The only way, in my opinion, that this Congress is going to take on those tough choices is if we put in a set of rules that force us to do it.

The Blue Dog Democrats have a 12-point plan that will put those provisions in place: a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, real pay-as-you-go rules. Those are just two

of the 12 provisions that would require this Congress to come together and make those very tough decisions; and they will be tough, let us not deny it.

Mr. Speaker, if we want to show fiscal responsibility, if we want to do right by future generations, we will come together in a bipartisan way. That is not what is happening today. It is very unfortunate.

I encourage my colleagues to vote down this package today.

□ 1030

#### HONORING OUR VETERANS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the Good Book tells us if you owe debts, pay debts. If honor, then honor. If respect, then respect. As Washington, D.C., begins today to embark on a healthy debate over the future course of the Federal budget, I rise in the quiet of this morning to pay a debt of gratitude to those that will be remembered in ceremonies and parades wearing moth-balled uniforms and gray hair across the land as Veterans Day is remembered and celebrated.

Memorial Day in the spring is that day we remember those who did not come home; Veterans Day is the day that we remember those who did. I will never forget a close friend of my late father, who said years after he returned from having served in combat in Korea, "I don't think your dad ever got over the guilt of coming home."

My dad said good-bye forever to many close friends who served alongside of him in Korea, but he carried a special weight, having fired shots in anger for the United States in uniform. Let us remember our veterans and celebrate them across the land tomorrow.

#### BUDGET RECONCILIATION

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, a budget is about planning. It is about the future. And for me the idea of the future is intertwined with my granddaughter, Anna, who is 2 years old. We all have someone like that, someone for whom we want to build a better tomorrow, but to do so we must address the real challenges our Nation faces, including an ever-increasing debt.

Unfortunately, the package that we are dealing with today passes more debt on to future generations, my Anna and your Anna, while making it more difficult for working families to achieve the American dream. This does not reflect the values and priorities of our constituents.

The American people want courage, leadership and shared sacrifice and we are giving them a bill that is short-